North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

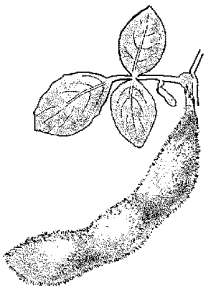
Issue: 11-11 June 3, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

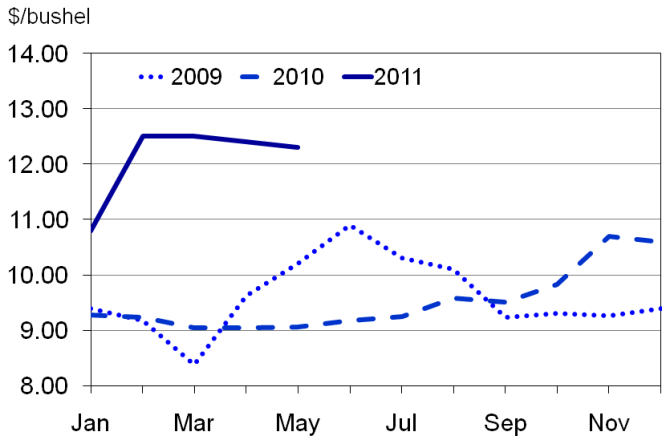
AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota
Prices received by farmers for spring wheat for May 2011 averaged $9.55 per bushel, an increase of 24 cents from the April 2011 price.

Soybeans, at $12.30 per bushel, decreased 10 cents from the previous month while corn increased 7 cents to $5.90 per bushel.



Prices Received for Soybeans by Month North Dakota



Prices Received for Field Crops – North Dakota and United States: May 2011 with Comparisons

Item	North Dakota			United States			Effective U.S. Parity Price May 2011
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
	May 2010	April 2011	May 2011	May 2010	April 2011	May 2011	
Wheat, all ..... dollars/bushel	4.34	9.10	9.36	4.33	8.04	8.19	16.50
Spring ..... dollars/bushel	4.43	9.31	9.55	4.61	8.67	9.20	(NA)
Durum ..... dollars/bushel	4.00	8.63	8.50	4.28	8.60	8.44	(NA)
Winter..... dollars/bushel	3.93	7.28	7.25	4.21	7.39	7.70	(NA)
Barley, all ..... dollars/bushel	3.21	4.19	4.93	4.25	4.27	4.57	11.60
Feed ..... dollars/bushel	2.01	4.09	4.25	2.49	4.32	4.87	(NA)
Malting ..... dollars/bushel	3.38	4.23	5.10	4.51	4.25	4.49	(NA)
Oats ..... dollars/bushel	1.82	3.07	(D)	2.19	3.53	3.49	6.80
Sunflower, all..... dollars/cwt	16.40	28.40	29.70	14.90	28.90	30.30	51.90
Oil ..... dollars/cwt	14.50	29.40	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Non-oil ..... dollars/cwt	22.00	26.50	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Canola..... dollars/cwt	16.60	24.80	25.80	16.70	24.80	25.80	47.30
Soybeans ..... dollars/bushel	9.06	12.40	12.30	9.41	13.10	13.00	25.80
Flaxseed ..... dollars/bushel	8.34	13.50	13.30	8.34	13.50	13.30	27.70
Corn ..... dollars/bushel	2.98	5.83	5.90	3.48	6.35	6.15	10.40
Beans, all dry edible ..... dollars/cwt	23.80	26.80	27.90	27.80	31.70	31.70	79.40
Pinto ..... dollars/cwt	23.20	31.40	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Navy ..... dollars/cwt	27.70	26.10	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Potatoes, all ..... dollars/cwt	9.85	9.25	9.90	8.57	11.17	11.26	22.70
Fresh [1] ..... dollars/cwt	10.60	13.40	(D)	8.36	15.61	(D)	(NA)
Processing ..... dollars/cwt	10.70	7.90	(D)	8.91	8.38	(D)	(NA)
Baled hay, all [2] ..... dollars/ton	64.00	60.00	60.00	116.00	141.00	169.00	(NA)
Alfalfa [2] ..... dollars/ton	66.00	64.00	62.00	121.00	155.00	186.00	(NA)
Other [2] ..... dollars/ton	46.00	44.00	44.00	100.00	103.00	112.00	(NA)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.
[1] Fresh market prices only, includes table stock.
[2] Alfalfa, other and all hay are mid-month prices only.

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office ▪ P.O. Box 3166 ▪ Fargo, ND 58108-3166
701-239-5306 ▪ E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ▪ Internet: http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/

AGRICULTURAL PRICES (Continued)

United States

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 1 point (0.6 percent) from April. The Crop Index is unchanged but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (1.9 percent).

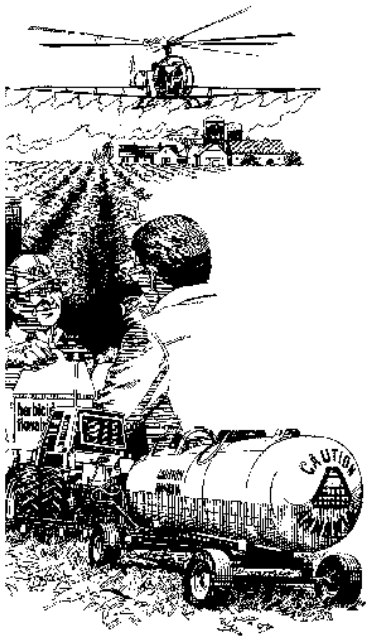
Prices Received, Prices Paid, and Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid Indexes 1990-1992 Base United States: May 2011 with Comparisons

Index	May 2010	April 2011	May 2011
Prices received by farmers:	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
All products	138	175	174
All crops	148	199	199
All livestock	131	156	153
Prices paid by farmers	181	203	204
Ratio prices received to prices paid	76	86	85

AG FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL USAGE

North Dakota

Farm operators applied nitrogen to 100 percent of the potato acres in 2010. Phosphate was applied to 89 percent, potash to 84 percent, and sulfur applications covered 44 percent. Comparison data for potato acreage came from 2005. During 2005, nitrogen and phosphate were applied at 100 percent, potash 96 percent, and sulfur 54 percent.



During 2010, nitrogen was applied to 100 percent of the corn acres. Phosphate was applied to 94 percent, potash 53 percent, and sulfur applications covered 8 percent. Comparison data for corn acreage came from 2005. During 2005, nitrogen was applied at 99 percent of the corn acreage, phosphate 94 percent, potash 38 percent, and sulfur 8 percent.

Metribuzin was the most commonly used herbicide for potatoes, covering 66 percent of the 2010 acreage while Rimsulfuron covered 38 percent. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage in North Dakota were treated with herbicides. Chlorothalonil and Mancozeb, each used on 83 percent of the potato acreage, were the most popular fungicides. During 2005, Metribuzin was applied to 47 percent of the potato acreage, Rimsulfuron 38 percent, and Pendimethalin 37 percent. The fungicide Chlorothalonil was applied to 78 percent of the potato acrage in 2005.

Glyphosate iso. salt was the most commonly used herbicide for corn, covering 86 percent of the 2010 acreage. Other herbicides used were Atrazine at 26 percent, Acetochlor at 17 percent, and Glyphosate pot. salt at 11 percent. During 2005, Glyphosate iso. salt was the most commonly used corn herbicide for corn, covering 56 percent of the corn acreage. Other commonly used corn herbicides in 2005 were Atrazine at 20 percent, Dicamba (Sodium salt) Difluefenzopyr-sodium, and Nicosulfuron at 18 percent.

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on targeted crops for the 2010 crop year. The farmers operating the sampled fields were personally interviewed late in the growing season or after the farm operator had indicated that planned fertilizing and pesticide applications were completed. For additional information on Ag Chemical Usage at the state or national level visit the Quick Stats Database at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Chemical_Use/.

THE DIVERSE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF U.S. BEEF COW-CALF FARMS

Beef cow-calf farms operate in an industry characterized by large numbers of small farms. Many of these farms specialize in beef cattle production, but farm households on these operations tend to generate more income from off-farm sources, such as wages and salaries or retirement income, than from the farm businesses themselves. Large farms account for most beef cow-calf production in the United States, but on many of these farms, cow-calf production is not the primary enterprise. These findings suggest that operators of beef cow-calf farms, large and small, have varying goals for their cattle enterprises, of which farming as a lifestyle choice is not uncommon.

In this report, ERS summarized information from a 2008 survey of U.S. beef cow-calf producers included as part of USDA's annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which was administered by ERS and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey covered 22 States and targeted beef cow-calf producers with at least 20 beef cows on the operation during 2008. Data from participating producers were weighted for analysis such that they represent 96 percent of U.S beef cow-calf farms in the target population.

What did the study find?

• About 60 percent of U.S. beef cow-calf farms produce calves that are sold at or shortly after weaning. These are usually small farms, and most are located in the Southeast and Southern Plains. Many of the farm households on these operations generate most of their income from off-farm sources.

• More than a third of beef cow-calf farms retain ownership of calves after weaning and continue grazing, or backgrounding, the calves from 30 to 90 days before selling. These farms are generally larger, have more beef cows, and are distributed throughout the United States, with many in the Northern Plains and West regions.

• The majority of U.S. beef cows are located in the South, including the Southern Plains (primarily Texas) and the Southeast. These regions have the advantage of a longer grazing season and less need for supplemental forage to support beef cattle during the winter, which results in lower feed costs. Despite higher feed costs in the Northern Plains, large beef cow-calf producers in this region are able to compete with those in the South due to production efficiencies and economies of size.

• Economies of size in beef cow-calf production suggest that farms have an incentive to become larger. However, the significant land area required for large-scale beef cow-calf production inhibits many producers from expanding. In most areas of the United States, beef cow-calf production is the residual user of land. As the opportunity cost of pasture and range land increases for uses such as crop production or recreational activities, the size of beef cow-calf operations may be limited or fragmented into smaller units.

• Most farms with beef cows do not specialize in beef cow-calf production. In 2008, cattle production accounted for less than 40 percent of the average farm product value on U.S. beef cow-calf farms. Regionally, cattle production accounted for about two-thirds of farm product value on beef cow-calf farms in the Southern Plains and West regions but less than 40 percent in other regions. Specialization in cattle production increased with farm size and peaked at 60 percent of farm product value for operations with 250-499 beef cows. Among the largest operations, those with 500 or more cows, less than 50 percent of farm product value was from cattle.

• Operators of more than a third of beef cow-calf farms worked off-farm in 2008, and half of beef cow-calf farms are classified as rural residence farms. These farms are small operations that specialize in beef cow-calf production but report off-farm earnings as the primary source of household income. Commercial farms with beef cow-calf enterprises are mostly diversified farm operations on which cattle are a secondary enterprise that accounts for about a fourth of farm product value. On intermediate farms, which have annual farm sales under $250,000 and report farming as the main occupation, the beef cattle enterprise accounts for over half of farm product value. Intermediate farms are among the most financially vulnerable to the input and output price variations of beef cattle production.

• In 2008, more than 80 percent of beef cow-calf producers had some type of animal identification system in place, such as branding or ear tagging. But, nearly a quarter of beef cow-calf producers with 20 or more cows reported a lack of familiarity with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), and only about a quarter had their premises registered with the system. This lack of participation among the Nation's nearly 765,000 beef cow-calf producers appears to be related to concerns about liability and costs associated with the program. Because beef cow-calf production is a secondary farm enterprise and a secondary household income source for most farms with beef cows, there may be little incentive for these farms to risk any perceived liability or to incur program participation costs. This may create a challenge for Federal or State efforts to enhance product traceability through animal identification on beef-cow calf farms. Find the full report at www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib73.

Source: ERS-USDA, March 2011

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

United States
Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.87 billion pounds in April, down 4 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in April 2010.

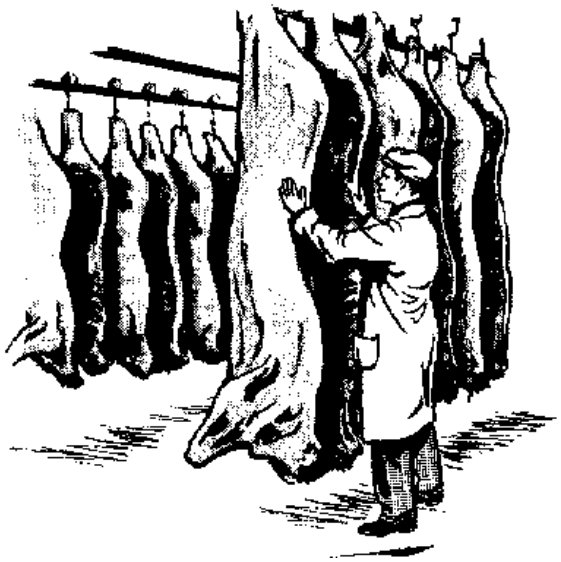
Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 4 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,257 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.2 million pounds, 8 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 14 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from last year, at 296 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.79 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.63 million head, down 5 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was up 11 percent from April 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,700 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 2 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2011 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.



USDA, NASS, North Dakota Field Office
PO BOX 3166
FARGO, ND 58108-3166